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- (d) From a report received from the Chairman, dated 1st December, it appears that the public of Cowl Bazaar have been prohibited by the District Magistrate from taking water from the Fort ditch. The Government are enquiring into the matter.
- (e) The Government have no definite information; but the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, has reported that there may be great scarcity of water during the next six months.

Water-supply to Patha Cuddapah tank.

131 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the water-supply to Patha Cuddapah tank from the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal has considerably diminished owing to the Ukkayapalli project and that this decrease is causing great hardship to the ryots under the said tank;

(b) whether the Government intend to take early steps to ensure a sufficient supply to the tank by widening the water course in the canal or taking such other necessary steps as would give sufficient supply to the tank; and

(c) whether the Government will enquire into the matter?

A.—The answer is in the negative. During the execution of the Ukkayapalli project, the supply channel to the Patha Cuddapah tank was widened to suit the increased ayacut brought in by the project. It is understood that after the execution of the project the supply to the tank has improved and the area irrigated under it has increased appreciably.

Water convenience in Mulluvadi, Salem district.

132 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the depressed classes suffer very much for want of a water tap in their locality alongside the public road in Mulluvadi, Salem, and

(b) why no steps have been taken by the Salem Municipal Council to provide a water tap for the depressed classes in a suitable place in Mulluvadi, Salem?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Will the Government be pleased to call for the information.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes.”

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures in Coimbatore municipality.

133 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that defective measures, scales and weights are being allowed in the markets, bazaars and shops in the Coimbatore municipality; and

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irrigation works were damaged by the floods in December 1923 in that district and the damage caused was estimated to Rs. 56,173 towards which Rs. 12,000 is expected to be spent before the close of this financial year. Expenditure on these three items together come to Rs. 31,000 and I move for sanction of this Council for the Grant which has been made anticipating the sanction. A similar sum will be relinquished from Grant VIII. In effect the Grant will merely amount to a transfer of expenditure from one head to another."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I beg to move for the reduction of a sum of Rs. 100 from this Grant. It is a matter to be regretted that, when making this Demand for Supplementary Grant, the Government have not thought it fit, as they did on a former occasion, to furnish an explanatory memorandum pointing out the necessity for this Supplementary Grant. On the last occasion, the House will remember, the Government gave as complete information as possible or desirable to Members, pointing out the various steps taken by them, before asking for that Demand. Now, in making this motion I do not wish to suggest that this expenditure is unnecessary or that the House should reject this Grant. I wish only to ask that when the question of damage caused by cyclone in Ganjām and Vizagapatam and the floods in Tinnevely have been before the public for a pretty long time, is it not possible for the Government to give us a comprehensive idea of the damage caused to irrigation works in these districts? It is true that the Collectors have asked for a certain amount before the close of the year and that for that amount, this Supplementary Demand is made. But it is necessary for us to know the total extent of damage caused to irrigation works, the amount proposed to be spent this year and the amount proposed to be spent hereafter. We should have been furnished all this information before we are called upon to vote for this small sum of money this year. We are now in February; what is now asked for is for expenditure before the end of this month. As every one knows that bills for works done in March would be paid in April, I believe this sum of Rs. 31,000 probably represents only a portion of the money required for putting those irrigation works in order. Therefore, without information as to the total extent of the damage caused to these works and the probable amount of expenditure to be incurred for repairing these irrigation works, it is not reasonable that we should, just on the eve of the presentation of the Budget early next month, be called upon to vote for this Grant. It is for the purpose of intimating to the Government the desirability of placing before us full and complete information about the damage caused to the various irrigation works, that I have thought it fit to make this motion."

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" Mr. President, Sir, what information was available from the reports of the Collectors concerned have already been published in the newspapers. Further reports are being prepared by the Collectors and, when they are submitted to the Government, they will be made available to the Members of this House. It is impossible just now to say the extent of damage in all these different districts, but very careful inquiries are being made and estimates are being prepared; and when they are available they will be furnished to the Members. At present, the amount asked for is for very urgent works and, if those works are not

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attended to immediately, it will lead to further damages and more expenses. In view of this fact His Excellency has thought it fit to sanction the moving of this Grant which I hope the House will sanction."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I would have expected the hon. the Revenue Member to ask the Collectors of the districts to furnish this information at once. There is no meaning in the Collectors' simply saying that this amount is required, without placing the necessary information before the hon. the Revenue Member. I would suggest to him that he would lose no time in getting that information. I do not suggest for a moment that this Grant is not required and that the House should not vote for it; but what I say is that the House should have a full idea about the extent of the damages before it is called upon to vote for a Grant of this kind."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XI.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move :

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1,260 under Civil Justice for the Additional Sessions Court, Coimbatore.

"Mr. President, Sir, when I am making this motion I do not think I shall be laying myself open to the criticism levelled at my hon. Colleague the Revenue Member, by the hon. Member from Nellore. Because, I am asking practically only for the salary of the functionaries concerned. I am in a position to tell the House that the original estimate was for a month and a half and that the present motion is only for three weeks' pay in February which will be met out of the current year's Budget. We require only Rs. 1,260 and I propose to alter my Demand, with the leave of the House to a sum of Rs. 1,260. However small the sum may appear to be, it is my duty to justify that to this hon. House, especially as on a previous occasion when this matter was debated on, the hon. Member for Coimbatore expressed fairly unequivocal ideas on the subject. Those who are conversant with the proceedings of this House would remember that on the last occasion when a proposition was made for the appointment of an additional Sessions Judge in Coimbatore, my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, said that the state of business was such that it would not be necessary to enlist the services of any such officer. And though at that time I felt fairly convinced that his prognostications or rather his prophecies erred on the side of optimism, still I contented myself with warning my hon. Friend that I might have to come again before this House to ask for a Grant and withdrew my motion. Now what are the facts? The facts are these: The pending civil work on the file is 195 civil appeals—of which 14 are appeals against the decrees of sub-courts, 38 would be over six months at the end of this month, 54 general petitions, 73 original petitions and 47 civil miscellaneous petitions. Again, the pending criminal work—I hope my hon. Friend will forgive me if I say that his district or rather some inhabitants of his district indulge in criminal propensities to an inordinate extent swelling the criminal work in courts—stands thus: 11 sessions cases and 6 criminal appeals, and the Sessions Judge has reported to us that, on an average, 80 per cent of the cases committed to sessions in a

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month, consist of murderous offences triable only by a Sessions or an Additional Sessions Judge. The result is that much of the civil work which could not be transferred to subordinate judges on account of the nature of the work is in arrears and criminal work is accumulating. Now, I think my hon. Friend from Coimbatore will support me when I say that we must give relief to the District Judge. Under these circumstances, I confidently expect every support from a quarter from which I did not get support on the last occasion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Now that the hon. the Law Member has made a much greater reduction than that given notice of by the hon. Member, Mr. Krishna Rao, does he still wish to make his motion for reduction?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I am not particular about the grant being reduced by Rs. 1,250 at all. I, however, beg to move :

'To reduce the demand under Grant XI by Rs. 100.'

"The hon. the Law Member has pointed out the circumstances which go to justify the bringing in of the additional sessions court at Coimbatore and he expected support from an unexpected quarter. I take it from the silence of the Members from Coimbatore that they accept the position and feel it necessary that the Additional Sessions Judge ought to continue. But what I like to point out on this motion is this: whether, just on the eve of the presentation of the budget early next month, it is necessary to make a supplementary demand for this small sum of Rs. 1,260 and whether it would not be possible to find money from savings from some other head?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The only reason why I moved for this grant was that I should have been wanting in my respect to this House to go against its deliberate decision on the last occasion. In other cases I have reappropriated. But on a matter of this kind where the House has given its decision, I thought it was my duty to come before it for the purpose."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Then, I take it, Sir, that so far as the question of funds is concerned, it is possible to find this small sum by reappropriation. I hope he will find savings enough to meet this demand. I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The demand for Rs. 1,260 was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXVI.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, I beg to move :

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 72,000 under 41-A. Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Grants to local bodies for the maintenance of trunk roads.

"Sir, the Government have assumed the financial responsibility for the maintenance of the trunk roads and they have hitherto paid the actual expenditure incurred by the district boards and municipalities subject to the condition that the rate does not exceed Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 in the case of the district boards and municipalities, respectively. In the current year, provision

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was made to the extent of Rs. 1,54,100, but this has been found to be insufficient to meet all the demands. We have already demands to the extent of Rs. 72,000, and it is to meet these demands that I move for this grant."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I beg to move :

that a sum of Rs. 100 be omitted from this grant.

"The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has informed this House that the Government have undertaken responsibility for the maintenance of trunk roads and that, in giving effect to that undertaking, it has been found necessary to ask for this supplementary grant. I realize the necessity for this grant and, if I have found it necessary to make this motion for reduction, it is only to point out to the hon. the Minister and to this House that the way in which the Government have been discharging this responsibility is not quite satisfactory. In the first place, shortly after the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee were before the Government, it was pointed out that to make a hard and fast rule of Rs. 500 in the case of district boards and Rs. 1,000 in the case of municipalities, would work serious hardship and that there must be facility for reasonable increase of it wherever it is found absolutely necessary. Again, Sir, in defining trunk roads—the nomenclature adopted by the Financial Relations Committee being first-class roads—it is pointed out that all roads connecting one district with another are roads of provincial importance and should be classed as trunk roads. Road committees were appointed in various districts consisting not only of representatives of local bodies, but also the Collector of the district and the Executive Engineer. These committees made proposals consistently with the recommendations of, or the principles enunciated by, the Financial Relations Committee, for the addition of certain other roads as first-class roads. But nothing tangible or substantial has so far been done for increasing the number of trunk roads to be maintained by the Government. When once the principle has been conceded that first-class roads or trunk roads are roads which connect one district with another, whether they cost Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000, the Government should make itself entirely responsible for the maintenance of those roads.

"My chief complaint is that the Government have not realized their responsibility by including within the category of trunk roads those which really deserve to be treated as such. Secondly, my complaint is that they have not given the allotment which the local bodies require even in excess of the limits of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 as the case may be.

"Another point which I must raise in regard to this motion is that the Government have latterly embarked on a policy of creating restrictions and limitations on the powers of the local bodies whenever they choose to make a grant. I may remind the House that this is an unfortunate policy which has been inaugurated more after the Reforms than before (hear, hear). It will be remembered that before the Reforms, and in the Joint Report on Constitutional Reforms, it was stated that local bodies ought to be the first training ground for Self-Government and that as far as possible complete popular control should be allowed to be exercised in the local bodies. I would request hon. Members of this House who have intimate acquaintance with the work of the local bodies, to say whether they feel that they are

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more free, that they are more independent, or whether they feel that they are in a worse position than before. I consulted a fairly large number of presidents of local bodies here, and I believe that I am echoing their feelings when I say that people really feel that the restrictions placed by the Government from time to time by some of their executive orders, have placed them in a worse position at present than they were. For some time before the Reforms, there were liberal grants of the Government of India for roads and communications—I think it was a grant of 26 lakhs. I think there was much more discrimination in the distribution among the local bodies. I remember the grants amounted to Rs. 20 lakhs in one year and 6 lakhs in the next year. Many improvements were effected in the conditions of the roads in various districts with the help of the Government grants. I would request the hon. the Minister to verify and say whether at the time of the distribution of grants on such a liberal scale any restrictions or conditions as those now imposed were thought of. And what is the reason for this change? I am afraid one must pause before one can answer this question. If, as a matter of fact, something like 26 lakhs, which is more than the 16 lakhs which my hon. Friend has referred to, was distributed among the local bodies for the purpose of communications without placing any restrictions on them but giving them complete freedom of action, how does it happen that the moment we are called upon to accept this grant, conditions have been laid down which are really productive of considerable hardship. For instance, I may remind the House of the Government Order which has been issued as regards the maintenance of trunk roads, to the effect that the local bodies ought to be absolutely under the control of the Superintending Engineer who may delegate his functions to the Executive Engineer of the district; and on their recommendation a grant is liable to be stopped, omitted or reduced. Suppose a local board goes on spending money—and there are differences of opinion between the executive officers and the presidents of the local or district boards—then, after all the board is placed in an unfortunate position. Again, there are restrictions placed that certain estimates should be prepared by a particular date, or that whatever instructions may be issued they should be carried out and no deviation therefrom should be made. I am mentioning these facts by way of illustration. All these conditions are not calculated to place the local bodies in a better position than they have been up to now. It is stated that the Act has given us more power than before, that local bodies are now in a position to work out their own salvation by means of the various provisions contained in the new Act. But when the Government is given the power of control and when they frame rules so as to restrict the powers of the local bodies, what is the use of the provisions in the Act, however liberal they may be? I therefore wish to state that the Government Order issued for the purpose of controlling the expenditure of grants for the maintenance of trunk roads restricts the powers of the local bodies and hampers their progress. That is one reason why I object to this motion. I also object to the somewhat niggardly policy which the Government have adopted in the matter of dealing with these local bodies. These are my reasons for reducing this grant."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, the previous speaker raised a number of general questions which no doubt call for early discussion and decision. In view of the fact that the budget is coming off

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next month, when we would probably be afforded opportunities for considering those questions as also the general policy, I do not consider it necessary to go into those questions just now. We cannot expect the Government to make a statement on the spur of the moment with regard to the policy they are pursuing. I therefore do not want to follow the previous speaker in what he stated, but, at the same time, I am quite surprised that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has thought it fit not to give any details for the Demand he now wants us to vote for. He has asked for an additional grant of Rs. 72,000. We understood that on the scale on which the grants were proposed to be made to the local boards, the Minister has allotted the amounts in the budget, but now an additional sum of Rs. 72,000 is asked for. For what purpose and on what calculation this additional sum is wanted is not stated. It is not stated whether he wants to favour certain boards and not others, or whether he wants to give particular grants for particular purposes to certain boards, or whether it is only a general question of larger amounts being paid to the boards generally. He has not stated anything at all for justifying this additional sum being granted now, and before we vote for this grant, it is necessary that we should be furnished with details as regards the necessity for this additional sum. Otherwise from what is stated under this grant, we do not know whether it would be necessary to vote for it, and it is absolutely necessary that the necessity for this Demand should be stated, as also whether the Minister bases it on general principles or on the special needs of any particular local boards. All this should be stated before we are asked to vote for this grant."

Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, do I understand that the sum of Rs. 72,000 also includes grants for any repairs for damages which have occurred recently? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the amount asked for does not include the sums required for repairing damages."

Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the district board of Guntur suffered a great loss recently on account of damages. With the permission of the Superintending Engineer, Guntur, we incurred some expenditure on that account and we asked the Government for the sanction of the amount. The Government said that they would consider the matter. I wish to know whether even such repairs will not be included in grants like this, on the ground that it is more for the Provincial Government to bear the charges for repairing such damages. I just want to call attention to that point."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Member for Nellore has raised two important questions. Both of them are under consideration. The first of those questions is in regard to the extent of mileage. Of course, the extent of mileage depends on the financial position of the Provincial Government. If the financial position of the Province improve, there could be an increase effected in the extent. As regards the rate at which these grants are made, that question too is under consideration. The Advisory Committee (Local Self-Government) has been consulted in this connexion. They have not yet arrived at a decision. When the Committee arrives at a decision, the Government will consider it thereon. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore has asked for details of this Grant, and the hon. Member, Mr. Moore, will give the details."

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Mr. P. L. MOORE:—“Mr. President, Sir, as the question is raised whether this Demand is supported by figures which would satisfy this Council, I shall give the answer so far as that point is concerned. The maximum grant admissible to district boards and municipalities for trunk roads is about Rs. 16,27,000. Last year, I suppose it was expected that these local boards and municipal councils would not spend up to the maximum limit, and so the figure Rs. 15.41 lakhs was put in the budget. As regards the actuals, I am very glad to say, and I am sure this House will be very glad to hear, that every board utilized the amounts so far as trunk roads are concerned, and there were additional claims, so that, though we budgeted for Rs. 15.41 lakhs, the actuals came up to Rs. 16.27 lakhs. Since this motion was put up, I got the figures compiled. We have on hand a balance of Rs. 2,500 and odd, and we now want Rs. 72,420, so that the total of the claims is Rs. 74,920, and what is now asked for under this demand is the former figure.

“The distribution of the claims is as follows:—

	RS.
Salem District Board	36,609
South Kanara District Board	11,280
Chittoor Municipal Council	2,143
Coimbatore „ „	8,331
Vellore „ „	1,715
Palghat „ „	1,070
Kurnool „ „	2,276

“The claims of local bodies yet to be received are as follows:—

	RS.
Rajahmundry	1,417
Anantapur	2,131
Tinnevely	1,558
Trichinopoly	5,438 ”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—“Sir, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has practically read the whole Ramayana omitting Sita throughout, because the hon. Member for Nellore raised various important points and along with those he raised a very important point, namely, the freedom of the local bodies under the reformed Government and in the hands of the Ministry who are after all our own men. This part of the answer the hon. the Chief Minister has avoided and I think I am voicing the real sentiments of the Members of this House when I say that we are all dissatisfied with the gripping hand with which the local bodies are administered and also with the fact that the freedom which the people expected under the Reforms is denied to them. That part of the answer we are anxious to have, and I am sure that the hon. the Chief Minister will give it, or at least that he will give us an assurance that he will be more sympathetic and give us more freedom so as to adjust ourselves within the limits prescribed under certain conditions. These are the replies which we expect from the hon. the Chief Minister and we hope that before the grant is voted upon, he will be pleased to give us some sort of assurance on this point.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Mr. President, Sir, I thought that my Friend from Coimbatore said that the points raised related to the general policy which would be discussed at the time of the budget, and that was why

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I did not deal with them. But my general answer to the question raised by Mr. Krishna Rao and the hon. Member for Ganjam is that so long as the Government are making grants, they expect that they should have the power to see that those grants are properly spent. Barring that, the Government are not anxious to interfere in the details of administration. As to the rules which my hon. Friend from Nellore has referred to, they were the rules framed before the introduction of the Reforms. They were framed with the idea that the local bodies which, in maintaining trunk roads act as the agents of the Government, should spend the grants given in such a manner as to afford facilities to the Superintending Engineers for inspection and report on the works. I do not think, Sir, the Ministry can be taken to task for having passed these rules as they had been passed before they came into existence. And I maintain at the same time that the rules are absolutely necessary and without them it will be impossible for the Government to satisfy themselves that the grants they are giving are properly spent."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Sir, may I know whether the Government Order regarding the management of the trunk roads is, after all, the production of the Ministry?"

12-45 p.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member, Mr. Krishna Rao, press his motion?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Mr. President, I think I have to reply in view of the observations made by the hon. the Minister. I am rather disappointed that the hon. the Minister has not grappled the full significance of my remarks. I expected that he would see eye-to-eye with me and co-operate in our attempts to get more freedom of action so far as our local bodies are concerned. It would have been more satisfactory if he had made the explicit statement that he is equally interested in seeing that there is no unnecessary interference by the Government with the freedom of action of the local bodies. On the other hand, his justification of an order which was passed after he assumed charge, or shortly before, I think, will place matters on a different footing. But, if he again goes through that order and, on analysis, finds that there is scope for any amount of unnecessary interference between one officer and another, I hope he will see his way to modify that. I must on this occasion express my appreciation of the spirit with which the officers of the department were animated, and I am glad to state that they have been co-operating and have not created any unnecessary difficulties in the way of expending the money on trunk roads. But things are otherwise so far as the rules are concerned; and I would again request the hon. the Minister to examine the Government Order more carefully. If an officer makes up his mind, he can create a lot of mischief under the rules as at present; and I hope the hon. the Minister will see his way to see that they are modified. It is true that some officers have co-operated in trying to get the money that we wanted, but the rules from start to finish have been so framed as to cause any amount of friction. It is for that reason that I particularly drew his attention to this Government Order relating to trunk roads, and I hope the hon. the Minister will not merely urge the usual official reply that Government control is necessary and that it cannot be relaxed. I believe the time has come when he will forget all these old theories and re-examine the question from the popular standpoint to see what changes are required to be made in the rules. That

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is the standpoint from which I would request the hon. the Minister to examine it. If the hon. the Minister will give me such an assurance, I shall not press my motion. If he does not give that, I shall have to press it."

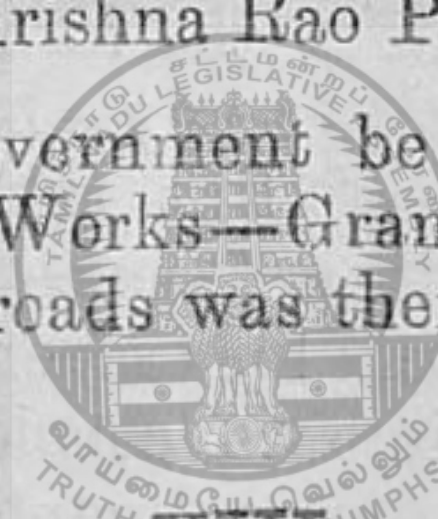
The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, I have already told this House that the Government are not anxious to fetter the discretion of the local bodies in their activities. They are only desirous of satisfying themselves that the funds they are granting to the local bodies are properly spent. The hardships in the working of the rules, if any, will be examined and if their revision is found necessary they can be revised."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member (Mr. Krishna Rao) wish to press his motion?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I do not think it is necessary, Sir, to press it to a division, though I must state that the second speech of the hon. the Minister has not thrown any more light than his first speech. But, whatever he has said, I hope he will reconsider the matter. With these remarks and with the hope that the hon. the Minister will throw better light on the matter on a future occasion after examining the rules, I withdraw this motion."

The motion of Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu was by leave withdrawn.

The motion that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 72,000 under 41-A. Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Grants to local bodies for the maintenance of trunk roads was then put to the House and carried, and the grant was made.



AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS.

(1) *Standing Orders 46 and 49.*

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to move that the following amendments to the Standing Orders which have been printed and are in the hands of the Members of this House be taken into consideration:—

(1) *that, in the first clause of Standing Order No. 46, the words 'ten clear days' be substituted for the words 'six clear days';*

(2) *that the following be substituted for clause (2) of the same Standing Order:—*

"(2) The Secretary shall cause to be printed and made available for the use of Members every notice of an amendment received within the time prescribed under sub-clause (1) and any other such notice that the President may direct to be so printed and made available";

(3) *that the following be substituted for clause (3) of Standing Order No. 49:—*

"(3) Where the objection prevails, the Bill shall not be brought forward earlier than three days from the day on which the consideration of the Bill was concluded in Council; and may then be passed with or without further amendment.

Note.—This clause shall not apply to Taxation Bills."